

# Compound Nouns

## Teaching

A **compound noun** is made up of two or more words used together as a single noun.

Compound nouns can be written in one of three ways:

One single word: *windshield*

Two or more separate words: *air bag*

A hyphenated word: *two-seater*

The following chart shows the usual ways to form the plurals of compound nouns.

	Singular	Rule	Plural
One word	townhouse	Add -s to most words	townhouses
	hairbrush	Add -es to words that end in <i>ch, sh, s, x, or z</i> .	hairbrushes
Two or more words or hyphenated words	traffic light mother-in-law	Make the main noun plural.	traffic lights mothers-in-law

## A. Identifying Compound Nouns

Underline every compound noun in the following sentences.

1. Did you see the moving van parked in our neighbor's driveway?
2. The school board voted for safety belts on buses.
3. My sister-in-law recently bought a car so she could drive it to her new job at the department store.
4. You can catch the cable car at a stop on Market Street.
5. The steering wheel on that car is covered with cowhide.

## B. Using Plural Compound Nouns

Underline the compound nouns that are spelled incorrectly. Rewrite the sentences, using the correct plural form of those nouns.

1. Two carwashes are located on Main Street.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Dad's brother-in-laws both have red sports cars.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Some mother-to-bes are interested in buying antique high chairs for their babies.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. In our state, 16-years-old cannot drive alone.

\_\_\_\_\_

**Lesson  
4****Compound Nouns*****More Practice*****A. Identifying Compound Nouns**

Underline every singular compound noun once. Underline every plural compound noun twice.

1. The moonlight glistened off the lake.
2. Do your grandparents own a bed-and-breakfast?
3. The snowstorm left the travelers stranded with only farmhouses in sight.
4. They waited until after dinnertime to ask the homeowners if they could use their telephone.
5. The attendant at the gas station said he would send a towtruck.
6. The travelers slept in small bunkbeds at a motel until their car was repaired.
7. Days later, they were glad to see the skyline of their city and all the skyscrapers that meant home to them.

**B. Using Compound Nouns**

Write the plural forms for each set of compound words. Then use all three plural compounds in a single sentence.

1. airplane \_\_\_\_\_

airport \_\_\_\_\_

luggage cart \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. thunderstorm \_\_\_\_\_

raincloud \_\_\_\_\_

brother-in-law \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. president-elect \_\_\_\_\_

swimsuit \_\_\_\_\_

swimming pool \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Compound Nouns

## Application

### A. Using Compound Nouns

Rewrite the following sentences, replacing each boldfaced phrase with a compound noun. You will need to drop some words to be sure your new sentences sound right.

**EXAMPLE** Our neighbor owns a *van used for moving.*  
*Our neighbor owns a moving van.*

1. Carl's brother-in-law has a **throat that is sore**.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Please pull down the **shade for a window** near the front door.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. A **storm with thunder** is predicted for this afternoon.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Which **grounds to camp on** are your family's favorites?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Those **shelves for books** may not hold these heavy volumes.

\_\_\_\_\_

6. The **park filled with amusements** has a new, faster roller coaster.

\_\_\_\_\_

### B. Using Compound Nouns in Writing

Write a news article reporting on a contest in which there was one winner and two runners-up. Describe the activities in the contest, where the contest took place, and the prizes that were awarded. Use at least five compound nouns in your article. Underline each compound noun that you use.

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